

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Cancer Institute**

**Minutes of the State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and
Environmental Research Coordinating Committee**

November 29, 2011

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on November 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. via conference call. The Chair of the subcommittee is Michele Forman, PhD of the University of Texas at Austin.

Subcommittee Members Present

Janice Barlow
Michele Forman
Sandy Haslam
Neeraja Sathyamoorthy

NIH Staff Present

Jennifer Collins
Laura McGuinn

Others

Ilane Maximo
Kathy Huamani
Amal Mahfouz
Robert Wagner

I. BACKGROUND

The Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC) is a congressionally mandated body established by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This Committee is comprised of 19 voting members, including representatives of Federal agencies; non-federal scientists, physicians, and other health professionals from clinical, basic, and public health sciences; and advocates for individuals with breast cancer.

The Committee's primary mission is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information on breast cancer research activities among the member agencies, and to advise the NIH and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to further evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. The Committee serves as a forum and assists in increasing public understanding of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies, and research, and in bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The objectives of the SOS Subcommittee of the IBCERCC are integrated and dependent on the objectives and activities of the other Subcommittees¹ of the IBCERCC and include the following: to summarize the state of the literature (both animal and human research); advances in breast cancer research supported or

¹ The other Subcommittees of the IBCERCC are the Research Process Subcommittee (Chair, Michael Gould) and the Research Translation, Dissemination, and Policy Implications Subcommittee (Chair, Jeanne Rizzo).

conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer (and related disorders); and identify research gaps.

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its eleventh meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via conference call on November 29, 2011. Attendees of the meeting included committee members, NIH staff, the contractor from the Scientific Consulting Group, Inc., and members from the public. The meeting agenda included discussion on the following: updates on progress made in the advances, animal, and epidemiology sections, and action items and work assignments moving forward.

II. Discussion

Michele welcomed everyone to the call and asked if there were any edits to the minutes from the conference call on 10.20.11. Other than a minor edit on page three, no other changes were requested. Michele asked Jenny to make the requested revision and then send to her for signature.

The group then discussed Table 1. It was requested that all years be removed from the table and to remove the word “advances” and replace with “progress”. Sue mentioned that Sandy and she reorganized the progress in animals section listing the most recent progress at the end of the list. The group then proceeded to review each section of the table. Sue edited the document as requested during the discussion. She will send the updated version back to the group when she makes all of the changes. The group also agreed that for now they will bold progress that relates specifically to breast cancer and the environment and add an asterisk to denote this in the Figure legend. Kathy also offered to consult with the graphics experts at SCG to get additional ideas on the best way to present this information.

Next, the group moved on to discuss Figure 1 and Figure 2. Michele noted that she is still somewhat concerned about the greater magnification of the images for humans. Sandy pointed out that the figure legend denotes this. It was suggested that the figure itself make it more obvious that the human images are presented at a higher magnification – in addition to describing this in the legend. Sue also agreed to change the term “aged” to “late life”. No changes were requested to Figure 2. If Kathy has any additional questions about these figures, she will contact Sue and Sandy.

Table 2 is almost complete. During the call Sue changed all instances of the word “phenotype” to “individual characteristics”. Michele will add the additional point that she mentioned on the last call.

The group briefly discussed the placement of the tables in the chapters. One suggestion was to put them up front and then support with the text that follows them. There was concern that otherwise they might be lost in the chapters. Kathy will consider this as she edits the document.

Next, the upcoming release of the IOM’s breast cancer and environment report was discussed. Michele requested that those that are planning on attending the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium meet immediately after the release to compare notes, etc. She also requested that Jenny immediately send the link to the report to the full Committee.

The group ended the call by discussing the timeline for the report. Michele said that the Chairs will be reviewing the timeline with Kathy and NIH tomorrow (11.30.11). Jenny will report any changes to deadlines if there are any to the group this week.

Action Items

- Subcommittee members will review the minutes from the breakout sessions during the September 26-27 in-person meeting and send edits to Jennifer Collins ahead of the next conference call.
- Jenny will update the minutes from 10.20.11 and send to Michele for her signature.
- Sue will incorporate the edits requested for Table 1.
- Sue will send the updated version of Table 2 to Michele. Michele will add the additional bullet and then send back to the group.

- Everyone will continue to edit the drafts of the chapters from this group.
- Jenny will send the link to the IOM report as soon as it becomes available.
- Jenny will report any changes to the timeline for the report back the subcommittee.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. on November 29, 2011.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

/Michele Forman/

Michele Forman, PhD

Chairperson

State-of-the-Science Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

/Gwen W. Collman/

Gwen W. Collman, PhD

Executive Secretary

Research Process Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

Proper signatures

Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)